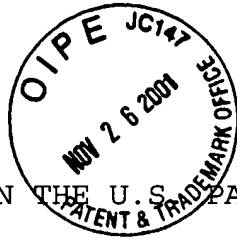


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PATENT  
1377-0156P



IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Thomas Valentine MCCARTHY et al.  
Appl. No.: 09/673,739 Group: 1656  
Filed: October 20, 2000 Examiner: J. Tung  
For: A METHOD FOR THE CHARACTERIZATION OF  
NUCLEIC ACID MOLECULES INVOLVING  
GENERATION OF EXTENDIBLE UPSTREAM DNA  
FRAGMENTS RESULTING FROM THE CLEAVAGE OF  
NUCLEIC ACID AT AN ABASIC SITE

12/D  
SJS  
11/29/01

AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

November 26, 2001

Sir:

The following amendments and remarks are respectfully submitted in response to the Office Action dated July 5, 2001, the due date having been extended for two (2) months to December 5, 2001, in connection with the above-identified application.

IN THE ABSTRACT

Please insert the Abstract of the Disclosure attached hereto, at the end of the specification.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please replace claims 1 and 12 with the following amended claims.